A TRUE
RELATION
OF A BARBAROUS
Bloody Murther;
COMMITTED
By *PHILIP STANDSFIELD*
UPON THE
Perſon of Sir *James Standsfield* his Father.

GIVING

An Account of the many inhumane Practices and unnatural Contrivances he uſed to bring about his wicked Purpoſes in compaſſing the Life of his ſaid Father: And how, with the Aſſiſtance of his Confederates and Accomplices, he Murthered him in his Bed-Chamber, threw him into a River, and gave out he Drowned himſelf; ſeizing upon his Eſtate and Burying him privately: And by what means, the Body being again taken up, the Murther was diſcovered in all its Circumſtances. For which and other notorious Crimes mention'd in this Book, he was Tryed, Condemned and Executed with the manner thereof, *&c.*

Written as a Caution to all graceleſs Perſons.

This may be Printed, R. P.

Printed for *J. Conyers* at the *Black Raven* near St. *Andrews* Church in *Holborn*, 1688.

A TRUE RELATION

OF A BARBAROUS Bloody Murther.

COMMITTED

By PHILIP STANDSFIELD

UPON THE

Person of Sir James Standsfield his Father.

GIVING

An Account of the many inhumane Practices and unnatural Contrivances he used to bring about his wicked Purposes in compassing the Life of his said Father: And how, with the Assistance of his Confederates and Accomplices, he Murthered him in his Bed-Chamber, threw him into a River, and gave out he Drowned himself: Seizing upon his Estate and Burying him privately: And by what means, the Body being again taken up, the Murther was discovered in all its Circumstances. For which and other notorious Crimes mentioned in this Book, he was Tryed, Condemned and Executed with the manner thereof, &c.

Written as a Caution to all Prodigal Persons.

This may be Printed. R. P.

Printed for J. Cruvin at the Black Raven near St. Andrews Church in Holborn, 1683.

A TRUE

RELATION

OF A

Barbarous Bloody MURTHER,

COMMITTED

By *Phillip Standsfield*, upon the Person of Sir *James Standsfield* his Father, &c.

After a strict Enquiry into the Death of Sir *James Standsfield*, who was, some time past, found dead in a River adjoyning to his House of *New Mills* neer *Haddington*, on this side *Edenborough*, in the Kingdom of *Scotland*, apparent Symptoms of Murther appearing, and extraordinary Presumptions had, That *Philip Standsfield* his eldest Son was deeply concerned in it. After he had for that and other Crimes been committed to the *Tolbooth*, the Assizes coming on, on the 6th. of *February* an Indictment was exhibited against him by the King's Advocate, consisting of three Articles, *viz.* 1. That he the said *Philip Standsfield* had drank a Treasonable Health, 2. That he had cursed his Parent,

viz. his Father. 3. That he had complotted, contrived and brought to paſs the Murther of his ſaid Father; and being allowed Counſel to defend theſe Articles libelled againſt him, after a conſiderable Debate thereon on the part of the King, and the part of the Priſoner, the Court giving their Opinion, That the firſt Article was High-Treaſon, and the two others incurring the Pains of Death, according to the Laws of that Kingdom. The Court adjourned till Two of the Clock in the Afternoon of the day following, enjoyning the Aſſizers or Jurors, empannelled to try the matter of Fact upon the ſaid Indictment, in the penalty of 200 Marks, to make their perſonal Appearance in the ſaid Court at the hour aforeſaid, and the Priſoner remanded to the *Tolbooth*.

On the 17th. of *February*, 1688. the Court being ſat and the Aſſizers or Jurors ſworn, the Witneſſes were produced by the King's Advocate againſt the ſaid *Philip Standsfield* the Priſoner, who being ſworn as to the firſt Article was plainly proved by three Perſons that he had not only drank the Health mentioned in Act in the Kitchen at *New Milne* with other Healths of the like wicked Purport, but obliged others on their Knees to do the ſame; after that enjoyning them to ſecrecy, threatning them extreamly if ever they revealed it: and being reproved by one for enterpriſing ſo great a Wickedneſs, he replyed, *You Dog, what are you concerned, you do not underſtand to whom you ſpeak?* &c.

The Evidence as to the firſt Article being fully proved, the Witneſſes proceeded to the other two, upon which briefly it was ſworn that Sir *James Standsfield* being about to go to *Smeitoun* with a Miniſter, the Priſoner demanded of the latter whether they were going, and being told, he ſaid, *Devil let never a one of them come back again, Horſe nor Man*: And that ſoon after being deſired by a Servant to come to Dinner with his Father, he uſed many other Curſes and Execrations towards him, further expreſſing himſelf, That he would not go near him, for his Father grinn'd upon him like a Sheeps-head in a Tongues, and at divers other times he had not only curſed him in ſuch wicked expreſſions as I think not in this Paper fit to be mentioned, leaſt they ſhould create horrour and amazement in the very Relation of ſo monſtrous a Wickedneſs, but likewiſe at ſundry times ſought his Life, aſſaulted him and fired Piſtols at him, way-lay'd him, and uſed ma-

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ny unnatural endeavours to destroy him, especially upon notice that he was about to disinherit him for his many Wickednesses and Debauchery, and to transfer his Estate upon *John Standsfield* his younger Son, and that one day his Mother fainting, she said upon her Recovery, O Philip, *you will shortly want your Mother*: to which he replyed, his Father should be dead first, and then it should be well with her as long as he had it or to the like purpose, often declaring, he hoped in short time to be Laird of all, and then he would use some as they had used him, declaring at another time, That he had hated his Father this six or seven years, and could not abide to see him, often imprecating the Devil to Dam him, Rive him and Swell him, threatning likewise his Brothers Life, as his Mother her self confessed, so that Sir *James Standsfield* finding him incorrigible, and that although he had redeemed him out of sundry Prisons, and supplyed him with him great Sums of Money, in this and other Nations, he still grew worse, had accordingly resolved to disinherit him and was preparing Instruments for that purpose, and had declared to some Friends that he could have no comfort of his Life, by reason of his wicked Son, *&c.* which as is evident hasten'd the Prisoner to proceed to the Tragical finishing his Fathers days, for the *Friday* before the wicked Act, one *Janent Johnston* who was his Strumpet, held a conference with him in his Chamber, and about that time, or soon after, having cursed one of the Maid-Servants, she said, she thanked God he was not her Master: to which he replyed, with an Oath that she knew not how soon he should be: On this, supposing Sir *James Standsfield* had made his Estate to his Son *John*, the Prisoner said, if he thought he had done it he would cut his Throat: but so it happened that on *Friday* the of *November* last, he was seen very familiar or intimate with *Janent Johnston* and one *George Thomson* and his Wife, with whom he held as it were a close Consult, and that night his Father coming from *Edenborough* with one Mr. *John Bell* a Minister, he refused upon being sent for to see him or come to Prayers with him, expressing a detestation of his Father.

Bed-time being come, Sir *James* having seen the Minister into his Chamber went himself to Bed, lying customary alone, but the said Minister had not slept long before he was awaked, as he verily conjectured, by Cryes in the adjacent Apartment, and thereupon heard

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several Voices or Whispering, which coming to the stairs, went down, as he conjectured, and so out at the Door as appeared by their lessening or loudening, upon which he rose to look out at the Window, but could not draw it up, yet he heard the voices move towards the River; when an hour after day *Philip Standsfield* came into his Chamber, and asked if Sir *James* was come thither, saying, he had been seeking him upon the Banks of the Water, and soon after News was brought that he was in the River, and that *Philip Standsfield* had stood looking upon him, as a Stranger came by, saying then, he knew it to be his Father, but did not think fit be the first Discoverer, nor would he when he was taken up suffer him to be brought into the House, but caused him to be layed in a dark Out-house, saying, he should not be brought into the House, seeing he had dyed like a Beast; and although an Express came from *Edenbrough* to have the Corps searched if any occasion or suspicion required it, he caused them to be carried to *Morum* Church, and there to be privately, in a manner, interred, having used *James Johnston* and other of his Accomplices, in the most part of the management of this matter. But upon more than ordinary suspicions of Murther, and that Sir *James* had not drowned himself, by reason the Body floated and no water appearing in it when took up, and that the Banks of the River had been much broken with treading, and the Cloaths in a manner not wet, the Body lying likewise upon the Face, a further Order was procured from *Edenbrough* to take up the Corps and have them viewed, the News of the which so affrighted *Thomson* that he said he durst not work in the House, his Wife likewise declaring the like fear of being alone, as likewise did *Philip Standsfield*, so great a power has Guilt over the Conscience of the Guilty, &c.

The Corps being taken up in *Morum* Church, two Chyrurgeons were appointed to view it, who making an Incision about the Neck, &c. found in one part under the Ear much stagnated or clotted Blood, and that the Joynts had been distended; also by the blackness of the Face many Symptoms of Strangling appeared, finding at the same time no water in the Stomach or Bowels, with many other Observations; upon which they concluded him to be murthered before he was thrown into the Water, as did the Colledge of Physicians at *Edenborough* upon the Report of the several Symptoms and

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Circumstances made to them by the Chyrurgions, and the Consult of Chyrurgions did the like. And what further happened was exceeding remarkable, in which the finger of God, to discover more plainly the Murtherer visibly, appeared was, that a Speech being made, after the Wounds were sewed up, that some of Sir *James*'s neareſt Relations should take him up off the place where he lay and lift him into his Coffin, the Son, *viz. Philip Standsfield*, attempting to raise the left side of the head and shoulders, whilst one Mr. *Row* reared the other side, the Blood sprung out upon *Philip Standsfield*'s Hand, at which wiping it upon his Coat and struck with terror and remorse, he cryed out, *Lord have mercy upon me*, and so retired to a Pew, where the Chyrurgion ordered him some Treacle-water to prevent his Swooning away.

It was further given in Evidence, but not upon Oath, by *Thomson*'s Son, a little Youth, That the night Sir *James* was Murthered his Father and Mother were absent from the Bed, wherein himself likewise lay at the Feet, rising and going abroad at an unusual hour, *Peter Standsfield* and *James Johnston* having been there a little before, and being so risen and gone out a considerable time, his Mother came in softly first, and a while after his Father, not locking the Door but setting a Chair against it, because it made a noise when locked; and being both in Bed and supposing him asleep, because he made no Answer when they called, they fell to discourſing the matter, the Father saying, the Deed was done, and that *Philip Standsfield* guarded the Chamber-door with a drawn Sword and a cock'd Pistol, and that he never thought a Man would have dyed so soon; adding, that they carried him out towards the Water-side and tyed a stone about his Neck, and leaving him there, returned to a little Kilne, where they consulted whether they should cast him into the River with the stone or without, and at last, that it might better be taken for a drowning himself, it was concluded he should be cast in without the stone, and accordingly it was done, *&c.* And a little Girl, the Daughter of *James Johnston*, declared that her Mother was out at that time, and when she came home about Two in the Morning, her Father, in harsh Terms, demanded where she had been so long, to which she replyed, where she had been, the Deed was done, and so went to Bed.

This being the substance of the Evidence and Circumstances in a

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[illegible] the Prisoner by himself or Counsel having offered [illegible] in his own defence, and being by the whole Country known to be a very [illegible] Person, though no Education in his younger years were [illegible] to better qualifie him, the Assizers or Jurors, after the King's [illegible] had summoned up the Evidence, found him guilty of the [illegible], upon the three Articles therein mentioned, *viz.* Of Treason, The Curling his Father and Accession to the Murther of his said Father.

Being found Guilty, he was sentanced to be carried on the 15th. of *February* to the Market-Cross of *Edenborough*, and there to be hanged on a Gibbit till dead, between the hours of Two and Four in the Afternoon, his Tongue to be cut out and burnt upon a publick Scaffold, his Right hand to be cut off and affixed on the Eastern part of *Haddington*, and his Body to be hanged in Chains at *Gallowrile*; and it was further Ordered, That his name, fame, memory and honours be extinct, his Arms to be Riven and taken out of the Books of Arms, so that his Posterity may never have place, or be able hereafter to possess or enjoy any honours, offices, titles or dignities within the Realm for time coming, and all his lands, goods, chattels, &c. to be forfeit to the King; and accordingly this Sentance was put in Execution, he, as he had all along done, appearing obstinate to the last.

And now who can but relent at what has been related! and may it stand as a Sea-mark to warn hold and daring Sinners from running on in a course of Impiety, least by indulging themselves by degrees they at length become slaves to the Enemy of mankind, and he who was a Murtherer from the beginning prompt them [illegible] horrid Impieties as may deservedly bring upon them the [illegible] shamefull and disgracefull end; who, had he kept to his duty and filial obedience, answering the Education that was given him, and made suitable returns for the affection and tenderness of an Indulgent Father, who failed not to supply him with whatever he found convenient or necessary, he might have escaped this Doom and Punishment, and have flourished in Peace and Tranquility, but for not observing it you see his Days are cut off from the Land, and he has left an Infamy upon his Remembrance to all posterity.

FINIS.